



ALEXANDRIA, VA. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1873.

CITY COUNCIL.

Last night a regular meeting of the City Council was held.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

There were very few spectators, among them J. Amble Smith, M. C. from the Richmond District, but he had the other end soon left.

Soon after the minutes of the last meeting had been read and approved, the resignation of Col. J. S. French was still upon the table unacted upon, and that in as much as it was reported that Maj. Loving was to leave the city and that Judge Underwood might be absent on his circuit during the fall, that the resignation was to be accepted, it had better be done now, in order that a new election could be held during the proposed recess of Council and a quorum of the Board thus secured.

Dr. French thereupon moved that the resignation be accepted.

Judge Underwood seconded the motion upon the suggestions of the President, in order that an election might be held at an early day.

Dr. Johnson opposed the acceptance, Col. French had, in his opinion, been badly treated, not intentionally, but still badly treated.

On motion of Dr. French the action of the Common Council, in reference to the report of the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform, was read in, and the references of its various suggestions accordingly made to the different committees.

Dr. Johnson exhibited a plan of a proposed new hospital building to be erected on the Poor's House lot, at a cost of about \$1,500, and explained the many advantages to accrue from the erection of such a building.

The clerk then read the specifications and estimates.

Judge Underwood thought that such a building as that proposed would be of great benefit, but the expenditures of the city at this time were made under adverse circumstances, as all were aware, but particularly himself, who was acquainted with the fact, that since January last nine mercantile failures had occurred here, and to increase the burden of taxation now would be to make the pressure too great to be born.

Thus far seventy-two bodies of the victims of the Wawaset disaster have been recovered. It would seem that the number of the passengers lost far exceeds the number saved.

A letter from Pittsburg, Pa., says: "The recent strikes of big wells in the oil regions caused the utmost consternation among the oil brokers and dealers in crude petroleum in this city yesterday. Private telegrams announce that oil had been offered at \$1.10 per barrel, and no buyers. In all probability oil will go down to \$1 per barrel."

Additions are almost daily made to the record of crimes not only in the large cities but throughout the country. Drunkenness, jealousy and ignorance of the true enormity of crime have much to do with the murders of the day. Besides which the culpable leniency too frequently shown to criminals encourages vice!

The Washington Republican says:—"It is now understood that ex-Governor Wise will support the Conservative ticket in Virginia." The assertion which the Republican adds to this report, that "the bargain is that he is to be elected to the U. S. Senate"—has, of course, no foundation in truth.

Gen. Sheridan writes that there is now sufficient evidence to confirm the unofficial report of the fight between the Sioux and Pawnees on the Republican river, southwest corner of Nebraska. The Pawnees were jumped and utterly defeated. Their loss is greater than at first reported.

The Maryland Democratic State Convention which met in Baltimore yesterday nominated Lewis Woodford of Somerset for Comptroller of the State Treasury and James Franklin, of Annapolis, for Clerk of the Court of Appeals. A platform of political principles was adopted.

William M. Kinley has forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution some singular specimens of Indian antiquity discovered by him in the State of Georgia.

The President was at Augusta, Maine, yesterday.

A TELL-TALE SKELETON.—The Assassin of a Wealthy Lady and Her Daughter.—The following advertisement appears in the last numbers of the Gesteimunde, (North Germany) Gazette:

"The following heirs of Catherine Spelling and her daughter Dorothy, both of whom died a violent death in 1852, at Amsterdam, are requested to send their addresses immediately to the Royal Probate Court at Amsterdam: Sophia Behrensprung, Otto Kelenauer, Anna Derling, Maria Berling, Joseph Derling, all of whom emigrated to the United States since 1864."

This advertisement was issued in consequence of the discovery of the murderer of the widow Spelling and her daughter, and of the recovery of the spoils of his fearful crime, upward of twenty years after it had been committed.

ance of the reports of the Committee on Public Property on the erection of lightning rods, &c. When the resolution to adjourn to the 2d Tuesday of October came up, Dr. Johnson objected. The evenings he said were now long and cool; the heated term was over, and there were many matters to be attended to.

When the charge of irregularities was made against the Alderman from the 2d Ward, why did he not ask that a committee should be appointed to investigate his official acts in order that the truth or falsity of the charge might be determined. Because of conscience he comes into the Board of Aldermen, however, and seeks to shield himself behind honorable gentlemen who were his colleagues on the Finance and Light Committees, and by showing that General Corso and Mr. James Green are laymen and Christians, and that the Alderman from the 2d Ward, why did he not ask that a committee should be appointed to investigate his official acts in order that the truth or falsity of the charge might be determined.

On motion of Dr. Johnson, the Common Council was invited to go into convention to elect a member of the Board of Public Works. The resolution relative to the grading of Princess street coming back amended.

Dr. Johnson opposed concurrence. Some property-holders there, he said, were opposed to finishing the work because it would cost them \$150, not seeing that their property would be greatly increased in value by the improvement. The plan proposed by the lower Board would cost \$300, the full work but \$600.

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At the regular meeting last night there was a very full attendance of members of the Board, and partly filled benches outside of the bar. A resolution to change the name of Water street to Lee street, having been introduced.

Mr. Lucas moved to amend by making the name Snowden street. Mr. McKenzie thought that if Water was objectionable to the residents, how would it do to transfer the names of Water and Union streets. Plenty of babies, down there and baskets. I think Union would be a good name as the people there are fond of union.

Mr. Hopkins—Good many old bachelors about here. Mr. McKenzie—They are all honorable I hope sir.

Some further discussion the subject was postponed until the next meeting. Mr. Hopkins asked whose business it was to buy coal for the city. Last year the City School Board contracted early in the season for fuel for the use of the Public Schools to be delivered as wanted, and they paid \$5 50 a ton for coal. The city paid for a good part of what it cost \$11 a ton.

The Chair said he supposed it was the duty of the Committee on Public Property to make the requisite purchases. The Council then took up Aldermen's resolution appointing a committee to investigate certain statements relative to the late Finance Committee.

Mr. Shinn (Mr. Fowle in the chair) said:—"Mr. President.—At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen, held July 8th, 1873, the Alderman from the 2d Ward, the late chairman of the Finance Committee, asserted that he had been removed from that committee because he had offended the President of the Common Council by his opposition to a bill exempting the capital and machinery of manufacturers from taxation. At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen, held July 12th, I stated that the charge made by the Alderman was untrue and gave some of the reasons which influenced me in advocating the removal of that individual from the important position which he had held for two years. I stated that I had opposed his reappointment to the responsible position of a member of the Finance Committee because he was incompetent to discharge the duties of the office, or if competent, then he was unworthy of the position by reason of his having withheld information which it was his duty to lay before the City Council, and also that he had misled the City Council by over-estimating its resources and under-estimating its expenditures for the current fiscal year. I further stated that I had discovered certain irregularities in the management of the affairs of the Finance and Light Committees, which satisfied me that the late chairman of the Finance Committee was not the proper person to entrust with such important interests as the management of the finance of this Corporation. These charges were then distinctly asserted, and I now reassert them against the Alderman from the 2d Ward and against no other member of the City Council."

It is a fact well known to members of the Finance Committee mainly devoted upon its chairman. He exercises a general supervision over the accounts of the Auditor and the returns of the Tax Collectors—and he calls his Committee together whenever and for what he deems proper. On the occasion of their convention—he is the mouth-piece of the Committee in the City Council and from usage or of right devolves upon him the preparation and introduction of Salary and Revenue bills. These measures are or should be submitted to the Committee prior to their introduction in Council, but the Committee relies upon its chairman for the correctness of the information upon which his estimates are based, and naturally defers to his judgment where questions of doubt arise, by reason of the careful examination he is presumed to have given the subject matter under consideration. And if the chairman of the Finance Committee should determine to mislead or deceive his colleagues, it is no difficult undertaking if he has first managed to secure their confidence—and in the framing of the Revenue bill for the current year he has misled. I will not say intentionally, both the Finance Committee and the City Council. He estimates a tax on real and personal property of two per cent. on \$5,000,000 as yielding \$112,500. The tax levied by the City Council—two per cent. but the commission allowed for collecting is two, but the commission on the amount paid into the Treasury, less one dollar and thirty-five cents on each \$100 of property as revenue to the city. The late chairman failed to provide for this commission to collectors, say \$2,500,000. The total amount estimated from taxes from real estate, &c., is as above \$112,500.32—but there has been a year since this Alderman has resided in this community when all the taxes have been collected within the year for which they were assessed. The average annual deficiency during the past three years, as stated by the Collectors, is about \$14,000. There is no good reason to presume the deficiency this year will be less than the average of former

years—here then is a deficiency of \$14,000 not provided for by this ex-finance which added to \$2,700, the commissions on the amount which will probably pass through the hands of the Collectors, gives at once a deficiency of over \$16,000—will pass through the hands of the Collectors and the City Council. I could go further into the Alderman's fallacies, but enough for the present.

When the charge of irregularities was made against the Alderman from the 2d Ward, why did he not ask that a committee should be appointed to investigate his official acts in order that the truth or falsity of the charge might be determined. Because of conscience he comes into the Board of Aldermen, however, and seeks to shield himself behind honorable gentlemen who were his colleagues on the Finance and Light Committees, and by showing that General Corso and Mr. James Green are laymen and Christians, and that the Alderman from the 2d Ward, why did he not ask that a committee should be appointed to investigate his official acts in order that the truth or falsity of the charge might be determined.

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Mr. Cluss in a letter to the Commissioners. But this is not all; besides superintending the building for nearly two years instead of one, I prepared plans and specifications and superintended the erection of stalls and fitting up the market for which I received no compensation whatever, and while I did not expect the plaudits of my fellow-men, as those who labor most in public life get the least thanks. I scarcely expected that one who has given so much of his time to the Corporation should attempt to depreciate the success of any person striving for the public good. The work required of me on this occasion, especially in fitting up the lower part of market, where there are one hundred men to please of different notions, no two agreeing, and clamorous to-day for that, which they most condemned yesterday, has been an onerous and thankless task, that would jeopardize the soul of any man, and one I am happy to be relieved of.

A number of small bills for supplies to the Alms House, election services, &c., came in from the Aldermen when, Mr. McKenzie expressed his surprise at such matters being not paid on the order of the committee. The printing relative to such a bill would be more than the bill itself. The printing bill was a heavy one.

Mr. Evans asked how much the printing bill was last year. Mr. McKenzie—Six hundred dollars. Mr. Evans did not think that was much; for not only were the minutes or laws printed, but all the proceedings of Council were also printed. Mr. McKenzie said the whole matter grew out of calling this a city. It is a mere sham to call this a city. He thought the old time when the town had a Council with one branch was far preferable.

Mr. Porter introduced a resolution authorizing the Committee on Streets to repair the gutter-ditch on Princess street from Pitt to Loyal. He said that instant repairs were needed or a rain or two would sweep the old street away.

Mr. McKenzie asked if the committee knew the cost. Mr. Hughes thought a wooden trunk would cost about \$450. Mr. Lucas thought brick or stone should be used. Mr. Hughes said brick would cost about \$1,500.

Mr. McKenzie thought that the committee should ascertain the cost and make a report. Mr. Broders said the case was one that admitted of no delay; all the waste of the upper portion of the city was now by the wash of the gutter deposited in the hollow between Royal and Pitt streets. When the cows stirred the water the stench was unbearable. He hoped the Superintendent of Police would be asked to state the facts.

Superintendent Clifford (on leave) said that the ditch being newly cut in sandy soil, had so washed by rains that it was now undermining some of the houses and afforded no proper outlet for the water. The President—What led to this ditch being made there.

Mr. Clifford said that when the Committee on Streets extended Pitt street north of Princess they filled the old water course, which was an outlet for the water which came down Pitt street, and he was ordered, in order to keep the water from washing away the Pitt street extension, to make a ditch from Pitt to Royal street. This was the ditch which had been washed away.

Mr. President—So in order to grade one street they washed away another. Mr. Evans said the Pitt street extension was the basis of this whole trouble. The Committee on Streets had estimated the cost at \$800, and had been directed to make the extension if the cost did not exceed \$800. But when \$800 had been spent \$2,500 more was asked for and the work left unfinished, and to avoid washing it away this ditch had been made; so that the \$800 had in fact been spent to stop up a water course and turn the whole water of a large portion of the town into a dirt ditch, which, of course, did not serve the purpose but gave way and flooded the adjacent hollows and undermined the houses in its neighborhood. Now it was a pressing necessity to get authority to do some more work of the same kind. There was always on such occasions a pressing necessity. But when the Committee on Streets had in carrying out an order of Council that the work should be constructed if it did not cost more than \$800, fulfilled the order by doing \$800 of a \$3,300 job, he was loathe to give them plenary power to make a work which was estimated at \$450, cost \$1,500. There is no telling what it would cost. Indeed if they did now as they did on Pitt street, we might wake up some morning and find the whole northern section of the town washed into the river.

Mr. Clagett favored postponement. Mr. Porter said that the Committee on Streets had never asked \$2,500 additional. They had asked to have this ditch fixed three months ago when the cost would have been \$90. Now three months rains have swelled the cost to \$400, and in a short time it would cost \$700 to make the repairs. The subject was postponed for a report.

JOINT MEETING. The Alderman having entered the Council Chamber, Mr. Kishell, nominated J. T. Beckham, as a member of the Board of Public Works in place of Capt. Boothe, declined to serve. Dr. French nominated E. J. Lloyd. Dr. Johnson nominated Col. Basil Brawner. Dr. J. paid a high tribute to Col. Brawner as the fittest man for the position and said he had agreed to serve. He had been a member of both branches of the Legislature and was a most competent gentleman. Mr. McKenzie thought Col. Basil Brawner was an admirable man for the place. He would attend to the work for he had learned, and he was an economical man. Mr. Evans nominated Benj. Dudley, a mechanic who knew what a street needed. Dr. Johnson said that he asked Benjamin Dudley yesterday and was told by him that he could not serve.

1st ballot: Beckham, 8; Brawner, 8; Lloyd, 1; Dudley, 1. 2d ballot: Beckham, 10; Brawner, 7; Lloyd, 1; Dudley, 1. Mr. Evans nominated John Standford. 4th ballot: Beckham, 12; Brawner, 5; Standford, 1. 5th ballot: Beckham, 12; Brawner, 5; Standford, 1. Mr. Hughes nominated Edward Quinn. 6th ballot: Beckham, 13; Brawner, 3; Quinn, 2. So Mr. Beckham was elected.

The joint meeting then dissolved and Council adjourned until October. DESTRUCTIVE STORM.—Western Maryland was visited by a terrific storm yesterday morning, which did considerable damage to the growing corn and fruit. There was a destructive fall of hailstones in portions of Washington and Frederick counties. Nearly every window in the village of Burkittsville, near Crampton's Gap, was broken. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was broken at New Berlin, and also at Mercersville, and four trestle-work bridges on the Washington County Branch Railroad were swept away. Passengers are carried around the break in backs and other vehicles, and the usual schedule time is made. Two freight cars were thrown from the track of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad near Point of Rocks by the accumulation of sand and other debris, but no damage was done. There has not been such a flood in that section of the State since 1868.—Baltimore American.

The Washington Chronicle has concluded arrangements to have erected a handsome and spacious Printing House on Pennsylvania avenue, between Ninth and Tenth streets. MOUNT VERNON NURSERY, FRUIT TREES ADAPTED TO THIS REGION, SMALL FRUIT, ORNAMENTAL TREES, &c., &c. Send for a Catalogue to G. GILLINGHAM & CO., Accountant Postoffice, Fairfax co., Va. nov 4-twtf

COMMERCIAL.

Table with market prices for various goods like flour, sugar, and other commodities. Columns include item names and prices per unit.

PORT OF ALEXANDRIA, AUGUST 13, 1873. ARRIVED. Steamer Lady of the Lake, Norfolk, to F A Reed. Sch'r W B McShane, Philadelphia, to John Leatherland. Sch'r A Truesdale, Boston, to F A Reed.

MEMORANDA. Sch'r C Lane, hence, at Baltimore 12th inst. Sch'r Ella Barnes, hence, at New York 10th. Sch'r Mary F Carson, cleared at Boston this port 9th.

Sch'r Chris R Heyer, hence, at Boston 10th. Sch'r F Hildner, hence, at Providence 10th. Sch'r Juss W Knight, hence, for Pawtucket, at Providence 10th. Sch'r A D Whitney, hence, for Boston, at Vineyard Haven 10th. Sch'r Alice Curtis sailed from Richmond for this port on the 9th.

By Green & Wise. [Real Estate Agents and Auctioneers.] BY VIRTUE of a decree of the Corporation Court for the city of Alexandria, Va., rendered at its November term, 1870, in the suit of Cazewala & Coys, John's administrators, against the undersigned commissioners, appointed by said decree, will offer for sale by public auction, in front of the Mason House, in said city, on WEDNESDAY, the 17th day of September, 1873, at 12 o'clock M., the LOT OF GROUND in Henry street, 83 feet 6 inches on Wilkes 100 feet on Henry st., with one TWO STORY BRICK and four THREE STORY FRAME DWELLINGS thereon.

Terms: One-tenth of the purchase money to be paid in cash on the day of sale, and the residue thereof in equal instalments in full twelve and eighteen months, respectively, from the day of sale, with interest; the deferred payments to be secured by the notes of the purchaser or purchasers satisfactorily endorsed, and the title to be retained until the whole of the purchase money is fully paid. All those interested in fruit and conveying to be borne by the purchaser. C. W. WATLES, F. L. SMITH, H. O. LAUGHTON, Commissioners.

Mr. James Fossett consents to the above sale and will join in making the title, as directed. THE POTOMAC FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION will have a PICNIC in connection with a special EXHIBITION OF FRUITS, on FRIDAY, this week, at the farm of Stuey H. Snowden, Colingwood, a few miles down the river, to which place the steamer ALBANY will make three trips on that day. All those interested in fruit and agriculture and the members of the Potomac Fruit Growers Association are invited to attend. Those having choice fruit are requested to bring their best specimens. By order of the Association, aug 13-21 N. W. PIERSON, Sec'y.

DINNER will be given by the Ladies of the FIFTEENTH OF AUGUST at SUNDAY CHURCH, for the purpose of raising funds for the completion of the church. Every effort will be made by the managers to make it a day of pleasure to those who may patronize them on the occasion. The public are invited to attend and aid in the enterprise. aug 13-21

FREE CONCERT. J. SCHNEIDER'S SUMMER GARDEN, No. 115 King street. THURSDAY NIGHT, August 14th. Excellent MUSIC is engaged for this occasion. All are respectfully invited. aug 13-21

PROPOSALS FOR CURB STONE. Sealed proposals will be received up to FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, at 12 o'clock M., for 6000 feet of CURB STONE, to be delivered in Alexandria, Va. ROBERT PORTNER, Chairman Committee on Streets. aug 13-21

DEALER IN LUMBER AND TIMBER. BILLS cut to order and delivered by Alexandria and Fredericksburg Railway. Has just set a Mill in a fresh place, of which a considerable portion of a white oak of fine quality, much of it suitable for planking, &c. Also Yellow Pine, Red Oak and Hickory. Can furnish Balsa promptly, and make a portion of the public patronage. Orders may be left at our wood yard, corner of Duke and Union streets, where my son is offering SAWED and SPLIT WOOD at reasonable prices. Postoffice box 290, Alexandria, Va. aug 13-21

Harrison, Bradford & Co's. STEEL PENS. Special attention called to the well known 505-75-28-20 & 22. Factory, Mill, Vernon, Office, 75 John Street New York. aug 5-3m

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